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LaShannon S. Hyder

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EXAMINER

HAN, JASON

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2875

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/617,041	Applicant(s) HYDER, LASHANNON S.	
	Examiner Jason M. Han	Art Unit 2875	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 22, 2005 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims 1-6 and 8-56 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. It should be noted that the prior art of record, identified below, remains commensurate to the scope of the claims as stated by the Applicant and broadly interpreted by the Examiner [MPEP 2111], as elucidated below in the rejections.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 49 is objected to because of the following informalities: In the last line of the claim, the Applicant recites the limitation, "push-in wire connector", which should read as "push-in wiring terminal". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 1, 10, and 14-19 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salestrom et al. (U.S. Patent 4639841) in view of Gibilisco (U.S. Patent 2713668).
5. With regards to Claim 1, Salestrom discloses a luminaire assembly including:
 - A transformer [Figure 3: (46)] having a power supply fitting [Figure 3: (44)] and a power output fitting [Figure 3: (50)], whereby the supply and output fittings are push-in wire connectors adapted to respectively connect an end of an electrical power supply wire [Figure 3: (42)] and an end of an electrical output wire [Figure 3: (22 or 56)] to the transformer, whereby said supply and output fittings are adapted for quick-release of said respective ends of said electrical power supply and output wires, and where the electrical power supply wire is adapted to connect said transformer to an electrical power supply [Figure 3: (38)]; and
 - A lamp holder [Figure 3: (18)] having an electrical power supply [Figure 3: (22)] and power output [Figure 3: (26)] connectors, whereby the supply connector is a push-in wire connector that is adapted for attachment of an opposing end of the electrical power output wire [Figure 3: (50)], the output connector being a push-in wire connector adapted for attachment of another electrical power supply wire [Figure 3: (22 or 56)], and the lamp holder is adapted to receive a lamp [Figure 3: (34)].

Salestrom does not specifically teach each of the push-in wire connectors including a moveable member adapted to releasably retain an inserted wire and an

activating member adapted to move the moveable member to release the wire such that the inserted wire is quickly released from the push-in wire connector.

Gibilisco teaches an electrical connector [Figure 1: (10)] providing a moveable member [Figure 1: (38)] adapted to releasably retain an inserted wire [Figure 1: (22)] an activating member/quick-release button [Figure 1: (56)] adapted to move the moveable member to release the wire such that the inserted wire is quickly released from the push-in wire connector [Column 3, Lines 34-39].

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the connectors of Salestrom to incorporate the connector with activating member/quick-release button of Gibilisco to facilitate easy assembly/disassembly of the luminaries and transformer while ensuring proper connection and preventing inadvertent separation.

6. With regards to Claim 10, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom teaches the electrical plug component [Figure 3: (38)] being connected to the electrical power supply wire [Figure 3: (42)].

7. With regards to Claim 14, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom teaches the lamp holder including a second mountable side adapted for mounting said lamp holder to an object [Column 2, Lines 52-55].

8. With regards to Claim 15, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom teaches the second mountable side being mountable by an adhesive tape [Column 2, Lines 52-55].

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9. With regards to Claim 16, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Gibilisco teaches the moveable member being selected from the group consisting of a connector spring, a detent, a pressure plate, a leaf spring, an aperture defining capture teeth and combinations thereof [Figure 1: (26)].

10. With regards to Claim 17, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Gibilisco teaches the activating member being a quick-release button [Figure 1: (56)].

11. With regards to Claim 18, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom teaches the lamp being an incandescent lamp [Column 2, Lines 59-62].

12. With regards to Claim 19, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom teaches the lamp holder being a plurality of lamp holders [Figure 3: (34)].

13. Claims 2-6, 8-9, and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salestrom et al. (U.S. Patent 4639841) in view of Gibilisco (U.S. Patent 2713668) as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Hatch (Non-Patent Literature).

14. With regards to Claim 2, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above, but does not specifically teach the transformer having an electrical protection system.

Hatch discloses electronic transformers that include an Electronic Short Circuit and over load Protection (ESP) [Pages 1, 5, 8].

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the luminaire assembly of Salestrom in view of Gibilisco to incorporate the transformer of Hatch to provide safety to a user and the system. Applicant corroborates motivation, "Although a variety of transformers may be used as the transformer 12, a suitable transformer is available from Hatch Transformers, Inc. of Tampa, Florida [Page 6, Paragraph 23]."

15. With regards to Claim 3, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch discloses transformers rated between about 20 watts to about 60 watts [Pages 2, 5, 8].

16. With regards to Claim 4, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch discloses transformers adapted to receive about 120V AC and outputting from about 11V DC to about 12V DC [Pages 2, 5, 8].

17. With regards to Claim 5, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch discloses transformers including a mountable side adapted to mount the transformer to an object [see pictures on Pages 4 and 6].

18. With regards to Claim 6, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch discloses transformers that may be mounted via screws or nails [see pictures on Pages 4 and 6]. Such a limitation is an obvious matter of design preference and the mentioned list of mounting means are well known in the art.

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19. With regards to Claim 8, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above, but does not specifically teach the push-in wire connectors being corrosion resistant. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the connectors out of a corrosion resistant materials, since it has been held to be within general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416. In this case, corrosion resistant materials are preferred for prolonging the life and prevent easy wear and tear of said connectors.

20. With regards to Claim 9, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above, except for the supply wire being rated for about 120V AC. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used electrical wire rated "SPT-2 #18AWGx2C," as cited by the applicant [Page 7, Paragraph 26], since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416. In this case, such electrical wiring rated for 120V AC is commonly known for use in lamp assemblies.

21. With regards to Claim 11, it has been held that the recitation that an element is "adapted to" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. *In re Hutchinson*, 69 USPQ 138. It is also obvious and commonly known that an electrical

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plug component is adapted to pierce an electrical wire so as to ensure electrical communication.

22. With regards to Claim 12, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch discloses transformers that are "compatible with most incandescent dimmers" [Pages 1, 4, 5]. It is also obvious that the dimmer switch would have to be connected to the electrical power supply wire, which is commonly held in the art, i.e. rheostats.

23. With regards to Claim 13, it has been held that the recitation that an element is "adapted to" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. *In re Hutchinson*, 69 USPQ 138. It is also obvious and commonly known that a dimmer switch would have been adapted to pierce an electrical wire so as to ensure electrical communication.

24. Claims 20 and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salestrom et al. (U.S. Patent 4639841) in view of Gibilisco (U.S. Patent 2713668).

25. With regards to Claim 20, Salestrom discloses a light assembly including a transformer [Figure 3: (46)] having an electrical power supply push-in wiring terminal [Figure 3: (44)] and an electrical power output push-in wiring terminal [Figure 3: (50)], whereby the supply and output fittings are adapted to respectively connect and disconnect an end of an electrical power supply wire [Figure 3: (42)] and an end of an electrical output wire [Figure 3: (22 or 56)] to the transformer.

Salestrom does not specifically teach each of the push-in wire terminals including a moveable member adapted to releasably retain an inserted wire and an activating member adapted to move the moveable member to release the wire such that the inserted wire is quickly released from the push-in wire terminal.

Gibilisco teaches an electrical connector/terminal [Figure 1: (10)] providing a moveable member [Figure 1: (38)] adapted to releasably retain an inserted wire [Figure 1: (22)] an activating member/quick-release button [Figure 1: (56)] adapted to move the moveable member to release the wire such that the inserted wire is quickly released from the push-in wire connector [Column 3, Lines 34-39].

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the terminals of Salestrom to incorporate the connector/terminal with activating member/quick-release button of Gibilisco to facilitate easy assembly/disassembly of the transformer while ensuring proper connection and preventing inadvertent separation.

26. With regards to Claim 24, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom teaches the electrical power supply push-in and output wiring terminals being adapted for quickly releasing a wire [Figure 3: (44, 50)].

27. With regards to Claim 25, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom teaches a lamp holder [Figure 3: (18)] having an input connector [Figure 3: (22)], whereby the input connector is adapted to be

connected to the electrical power output wiring terminal of the transformer with a lamp holder lead wire [Figure 3: (50, 52 or 56)].

28. With regards to Claim 26, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom teaches the lamp holder being adapted to connect to another lamp holder with another lamp holder lead wire [Figure 3: (56)].

29. With regards to Claim 27, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom teaches the lamp holder including a mountable side adapted for mounting said lamp holder to an object [Column 2, Lines 52-55].

30. With regards to Claim 28, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom teaches the mountable side being mountable by an adhesive tape [Column 2, Lines 52-55].

31. Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salestrom et al. (U.S. Patent 4639841) in view of Gibilisco (U.S. Patent 2713668) as applied to Claim 20 above, and further in view of Hatch (Non-Patent Literature).

32. With regards to Claim 21, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above, but does not specifically teach the transformer having an electrical protection system.

Hatch discloses electronic transformers that include an Electronic Short Circuit and over load Protection (ESP) [Pages 1, 5, 8].

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the luminaire assembly of Salestrom to incorporate the

transformer of Hatch to provide safety to a user and the system. Applicant corroborates motivation, "Although a variety of transformers may be used as the transformer 12, a suitable transformer is available from Hatch Transformers, Inc. of Tampa, Florida [Page 6, Paragraph 23]."

33. With regards to Claim 22, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch discloses transformers including a mountable side adapted to mount the transformer to an object [see pictures on Pages 4 and 6].

34. With regards to Claim 23, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch discloses transformers that may be mounted via screws or nails [see pictures on Pages 4 and 6]. Such a limitation is an obvious matter of design preference and the mentioned list of mounting means are well known in the art.

35. Claims 29-36 and 38-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salestrom et al. (U.S. Patent 4639841) in view of Gibilisco (U.S. Patent 2713668).

36. With regards to Claim 29, Salestrom discloses a luminaire assembly including:

- A lamp holder [Figure 3: (18)];
- A transformer [Figure 3: (46)]; and
- A lead wire [Figure 3: (22 or 56)] connected to a capture and push-in wiring quick-release fitting [Figure 3: (50)] of the transformer.

Salestrom does not specifically teach the capture and push-in wiring quick-release fitting including a moveable member adapted to releasably retain the inserted wire and an activating member adapted to move the moveable member to release the wire such that the inserted wire is quickly released from the capture and push-in wiring quick-release fitting.

Gibilisco teaches an electrical connector/capture and quick-release fitting [Figure 1: (10)] providing a moveable member [Figure 1: (38)] adapted to releasably retain an inserted wire [Figure 1: (22)] an activating member/quick-release button [Figure 1: (56)] adapted to move the moveable member to release the wire such that the inserted wire is quickly released from the connector/capture and quick-release fitting [Column 3, Lines 34-39].

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the capture and push-in wiring quick-release fitting of Salestrom to incorporate the connector/capture with activating member/quick-release button of Gibilisco to facilitate easy assembly/disassembly of the luminaries and transformer while ensuring proper connection and preventing inadvertent separation.

Though Salestrom in view of Gibilisco does not specifically teach the method of installation, wherein the lamp holder and transformer are attached to an area and connected to one another via the lead wire, it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art to provide the method of installation for the abovementioned components, since it has been considered an obvious matter to provide a method of use/installation where all the structural components are taught by the prior art.

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37. With regards to Claim 30, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom teaches providing the lamp holder with attachment for a plurality of lamp holders [Figure 3: (34)].

38. With regards to Claim 31, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom provides the linking of at least two of the lamp holders via a lead wire [Figure 3: (56)].

39. With regards to Claim 32, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom provides connecting the transformer to a source of electrical power [Figure 3: (42)].

40. With regards to Claim 33, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom provides measuring a length of the lead wire required between each lamp holder [Column 2, Line 63 – Column 3, Line 10].

41. With regards to Claim 34, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art to cut the lead wire to a required length according to a desired preference.

42. With regards to Claim 35, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom provides mountable means for the lamp holder via and adhesive tape [Column 2, Lines 52-55]. Though Salestrom does not specifically teach the transformer having mountable means, it would further have been obvious to modify the transformer to incorporate such, so as to facilitate easier installation and inconspicuously hide the transformer.

43. With regards to Claim 36, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom provides an electrical plug component [Figure 3: (38)] to the transformer for connecting to an electrical power source.

44. With regards to Claim 38, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Gibilisco provides connecting the lead wire to the moveable member of the capture and quick-release fitting that is selected from the group consisting of a connector spring, a detent, a pressure plate, a leaf spring, an aperture defining capture teeth and combinations thereof [Figure 1: (26)].

45. With regards to Claim 39, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom provides inserting a lamp [Figure 3: (34); Column 2, Lines 29-34] in the lamp holder.

46. With regards to Claim 40, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom provides routing the lead wire in a non-linear fashion [Figure 3].

47. Claims 37 and 41-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salestrom et al. (U.S. Patent 4639841) in view of Gibilisco (U.S. Patent 2713668) as applied to Claims 29 and 36 above, and further in view of Hatch (Non-Patent Literature).

48. With regards to Claim 37, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above, but does not specifically teach providing a dimmer switch proximate the electrical plug component, whereby the dimmer switch is adapted to

selectively adjust a resistance value in an electrical circuit between the electrical plug component and the transformer.

Hatch teaches transformers that are “compatible with most incandescent dimmers” [Pages 1, 4, 5]. It is also obvious that the dimmer switch would have to be connected to the electrical power supply wire, which is commonly held in the art, i.e. rheostats.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the luminaire assembly of Salestrom in view of Gibilisco to incorporate the dimmer, as taught by Hatch, to provide greater control over the illumination.

49. With regard to Claims 41-42, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above, but does not specifically teach providing the transformer having an electrical protection system.

Hatch discloses electronic transformers that include an Electronic Short Circuit and over load Protection (ESP) [Pages 1, 5, 8], which also incorporates a built-in circuit breaker [note section on Electronic Short-Circuit Protection on Page 1].

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the luminaire assembly of Salestrom in view of Gibilisco to incorporate the transformer of Hatch to provide safety to a user and the system. Applicant corroborates motivation, “Although a variety of transformers may be used as the transformer 12, a suitable transformer is available from Hatch Transformers, Inc. of Tampa, Florida [Page 6, Paragraph 23].”

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50. Claims 43-44 and 46-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter (U.S. Patent 6283612) in view of Gibilisco (U.S. Patent 2713668).

51. With regards to Claim 43, Hunter discloses a luminaire assembly whereby one may service by:

- Disconnecting the luminaire assembly from a source of electrical power [Figure 15: (70)];
- Releasing electrical wires from one of a transformer [Figure 1: (64)] and a lamp holder [Figure 1: (20)] with a quick-release push-in wiring connections [Figure 1: (62)];
- Removing the transformer and lamp holder from the installation area [obvious];
- Attaching a replacement transformer and lamp holder in the installation area [obvious]; and
- Reinserting the electrical wires in the push-in wire connection in one of the replacement transformer and the another lamp holder [obvious].

Hunter does not specifically teach each of the quick-release push-in wiring connections including a moveable member adapted to releasably retain the inserted wire and an activating member adapted to move the moveable member to release the wire such that the inserted wire is quickly released from the quick-release push-in wiring connection.

Gibilisco teaches a quick-release push-in wiring connection [Figure 1: (10)] providing a moveable member [Figure 1: (38)] adapted to releasably retain an inserted wire [Figure 1: (22)] an activating member/quick-release button [Figure 1: (56)] adapted to move the moveable member to release the wire such that the inserted wire is quickly released from the connector/capture and quick-release fitting [Column 3, Lines 34-39].

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the quick-release fitting of Salestrom to incorporate the quick-release push-in wiring connection with activating member/quick-release button of Gibilisco to facilitate easy assembly/disassembly of the luminaries and transformer while ensuring proper connection and preventing inadvertent separation.

Since Claim 43 is a method claim reciting the structural limitations of Claim 1, the prior art of Hunter in view of Gibilisco is an obvious teaching over the scope of the present claim. It has been held an obvious matter that when all structural limitations of an apparatus have been satisfied by the prior art, one of ordinary skill in the art could construct a method claim for said apparatus.

52. With regards to Claim 44, Hunter in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hunter teaches that one could reconnect the luminaire assembly to the electrical power source [Figure 15: (70)].

53. With regards to Claim 46, Hunter in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hunter teaches that one could adjust the position of the transformer and/or the lamp holder [Column 6, Lines 44-65].

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54. With regards to Claim 47, Hunter in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hunter teaches, "FIGS. 9, 10 and 15 illustrate this base 66 which is formed of an extruded thermoplastic and may be attached by glue, adhesive, threaded hardware or any other convenient method. The base 66 may be pre-punched with holes or a pressure sensitive adhesive may be placed on the bottom to complete the mounting [Column 6, Lines 37-42; underline added for emphasis]."

55. With regards to Claim 48, Hunter in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hunter teaches that one may insert or remove a plurality of bulbs [Figure 16 or Figure 1: (44)].

56. Claim 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter (U.S. Patent 6283612) in view of Gibilisco (U.S. Patent 2713668) as applied to Claim 43 above, and further in view of Hatch (Non-Patent Literature).

Hunter in view of Gibilisco discloses a luminaire assembly as cited above, but does not specifically teach the transformer being replaceable with a higher rated transformer.

Hatch discloses electronic transformers with various ratings [Pages 1-9].

It would have been obvious to modify the luminaire assembly of Hunter in view of Gibilisco to incorporate a high rated transformer of Hatch, which is an obvious design choice that is dependent on the number of lamp holders as well as desired illumination intensity.

57. Claims 49-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salestrom et al. (U.S. Patent 4639841) in view of Gibilisco (U.S. Patent 2713668).

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58. With regards to Claim 49, Salestrom discloses a lighting assembly including a lamp holder [Figure 3: (18)] having an electrical power supply push-in wiring terminal [Figure 3: (22)] and an electrical power output push-in wiring terminal [Figure 3: (26)], whereby the electrical power supply push-in and output push-in wiring terminals are adapted for respectively connecting and disconnecting an electrical power supply wire [Figure 3: (50 or 26)] and an electrical power output wire [Figure 3: (56 or 22)] to the lamp holder.

Salestrom does not specifically teach each of the push-in wire terminals including a moveable member adapted to releasably retain an inserted wire and an activating member adapted to move the moveable member to release the wire such that the inserted wire is quickly released from the push-in wire terminal.

Gibilisco teaches an electrical connector/terminal [Figure 1: (10)] providing a moveable member [Figure 1: (38)] adapted to releasably retain an inserted wire [Figure 1: (22)] an activating member/quick-release button [Figure 1: (56)] adapted to move the moveable member to release the wire such that the inserted wire is quickly released from the push-in wire connector [Column 3, Lines 34-39].

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the terminals of Salestrom to incorporate the connector/terminal with activating member/quick-release button of Gibilisco to facilitate easy assembly/disassembly of the transformer while ensuring proper connection and preventing inadvertent separation.

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59. With regards to Claim 50, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom teaches the lamp holder including a mountable side adapted for mounting said lamp holder to an object [Column 2, Lines 52-55].

60. With regards to Claim 51, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom teaches the mountable side being mountable by an adhesive tape [Column 2, Lines 52-55].

61. With regards to Claim 52, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Gibilisco teaches the moveable member being a leaf spring [Figure 1: (26)] and the activating member being a button [Figure 1: (56)] adapted to move the leaf spring to quickly release the wire.

62. With regards to Claim 53, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Salestrom teaches a transformer [Figure 3: (46)] including an output connector [Figure 3: (50)], whereby the output connector is adapted to connect to the electrical power supply connector of the lamp holder via a lead wire [Figure 3: (52)].

63. Claims 54-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salestrom et al. (U.S. Patent 4639841) in view of Gibilisco (U.S. Patent 2713668) as applied to Claim 53 above, and further in view of Hatch (Non-Patent Literature).

64. With regards to Claim 54, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above, but does not specifically teach the transformer including a mountable side adapted to mount the transformer to an object.

Hatch discloses transformers including a mountable side adapted to mount the transformer to an object [see pictures on Pages 4 and 6].

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the luminaire assembly of Salestrom in view of Gibilisco to incorporate the transformer of Hatch, whereby attachment means are provided to facilitate convenient installation. Applicant corroborates motivation, "Although a variety of transformers may be used as the transformer 12, a suitable transformer is available from Hatch Transformers, Inc. of Tampa, Florida [Page 6, Paragraph 23]."

65. With regards to Claim 55, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch discloses transformers that may be mounted via screws or nails [see pictures on Pages 4 and 6]. Such a limitation is an obvious matter of design preference and the mentioned list of mounting means are well known in the art.

66. With regards to Claim 56, Salestrom in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch teaches electronic transformers that include an Electronic Short Circuit and over load Protection (ESP) [Pages 1, 5, 8].

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason M. Han whose telephone number is (571) 272-2207. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jason M Han
Examiner
Art Unit 2875

JMH (2/22/2006)


Stephen Husar
Primary Examiner